

## APPENDIX D

### Section 5317: New Freedom Program

#### OVERVIEW

New Freedom funds are to be used to provide additional tools to overcome existing barriers facing Americans with disabilities seeking integration into the work force and full participation in society.

#### PROGRAM GOALS

The New Freedom formula grant program aims to provide additional tools to overcome existing barriers facing Americans with disabilities seeking integration into the work force and full participation in society. Lack of adequate transportation is a primary barrier to work for individuals with disabilities. The 2000 Census showed that only 60 percent of people between the ages of 16 and 64 with disabilities are employed. The New Freedom formula grant program seeks to reduce barriers to transportation services and expand the transportation mobility options available to people with disabilities beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

**NOTE: Make sure the projects are for the general targeted population and not specific to an agency's eligible consumer group.**

#### ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

New Freedom Program funds are available for capital and operating expenses that support new public transportation services beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and new public transportation alternatives beyond those required by the ADA designed to assist individuals with disabilities with accessing transportation services, including transportation to and from jobs and employment support services. For the purpose of the New Freedom Program, "new" service is any service or activity that was not operational on August 10, 2005, and did not have an identified funding source as of August 10, 2005, as evidenced by inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) or the STIP. In other words, if not for the New Freedom Program, these projects would not have consideration for funding and proposed service enhancements would not be available for individuals with disabilities.

**Maintenance of Effort:** Recipients may not terminate ADA paratransit enhancements or other services funded as of August 10, 2005, in an effort to reintroduce the services as "new" and then receive New Freedom funds for those services.

Eligible projects funded with New Freedom funds may continue to be eligible for New Freedom funding indefinitely as long as the project(s) continue to be part of the coordinated plan.

Both new public transportation services and new public transportation alternatives are required to go beyond the requirements of the ADA and must (1) be targeted toward individuals with disabilities; and (2) meet the intent of the program by removing barriers to transportation and assisting persons with disabilities with transportation, including transportation to and from jobs and employment services.

**Eligible operating projects: 50% local match requirement**

- Enhancing paratransit beyond minimum requirements of the ADA. ADA complementary paratransit services can be eligible under New Freedom in several ways as long as the services provided meet the definition of “new:”
  - Expansion of paratransit service parameters beyond the three-fourths mile required by the ADA;
  - Expansion of current hours of operation for ADA paratransit services that are beyond those provided on the fixed-route services;
  - The incremental cost of providing same day service;
  - Enhancement of the level of service by providing escorts or assisting riders through the door of their destination;
- Supporting the management and expenses related to new voucher programs for transportation services offered by human service providers.
  - Mileage reimbursement as part of volunteer driver program
  - A Taxi Trip
  - Trips provided by a human service agency

Note: Transit passes for use on fixed route or Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) complementary paratransit services are not eligible.

- Feeder services. New “feeder” service (transit service that provides access) to commuter rail, commuter bus, intercity rail, and intercity bus stations, for which complementary paratransit service is not required under the ADA.
- Travel training. New training programs for individual users on awareness, knowledge, and skills of public and alternative transportation options available in their communities. This includes travel instruction and travel training services.
- Supporting aide (Ride-a-long Attendant) programs.

**Eligible Capital projects: 20% local match requirement**

- Supporting new mobility management and coordination programs among public transportation providers and other human service agencies providing transportation. Mobility management activities may include:
  - The promotion, enhancement, and facilitation of access to transportation services, including the integration and coordination of services for individuals with disabilities, older adults, and low-income individuals;

- Support for short term management activities to plan and implement coordinated services;
- The operation of transportation brokerages to coordinate providers, funding agencies and customers;
- The provision of coordination services, including employer-oriented Transportation Management Organizations' and Human Service Organizations' customer-oriented travel navigator systems and neighborhood travel coordination activities such as coordinating individualized travel training and trip planning activities for customers;
- The development and operation of one-stop transportation traveler call centers to coordinate transportation information on all travel modes and to manage eligibility requirements and arrangements for customers among supporting programs; and
- Operational planning for the acquisition of intelligent transportation technologies to help plan and operate coordinated systems inclusive of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping, Global Positioning System Technology, coordinated vehicle scheduling, dispatching and monitoring technologies as well as technologies to track costs and billing in a coordinated system and single smart customer payment systems (acquisition of technology is also eligible as a stand-alone capital expense).

#### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

There are three categories of eligible recipients of JARC funds:

- a. Private non-profit organizations;
- b. State or local governmental authority; and
- c. Operators of public transportation services

Note: Private for profit operators of public transit services may participate as third party contractors for eligible recipients.

#### **MATCH REQUIREMENT**

New Freedom funds may be used to finance capital, planning and operating expenses. The Federal share of eligible capital and planning costs may not exceed 80 percent of the net cost of the activity. The Federal share of the eligible operating costs may not exceed 50 percent of the net operating costs of the activity.

All of the local share must be provided from sources other than Federal DOT funds.